

## Welcome to the Board of Trustees



**Nicky Beamish, NZCS, DipMLS, PGCertPH**

Nicky Beamish, an experienced medical laboratory scientist is currently employed by Wellington SCL as Point of Care Testing Co-ordinator, a diverse role involving education and training of staff, quality and project management, installing and troubleshooting analysers, and managing and troubleshooting IT issues.

Nicky has been involved with the PPTC since 2011 as Microbiology Consultant, writing and co-ordinating the Microbiology QAP for the Pacific and South-East Asian region, and assisting with tutorials for short courses.

Over the past two years Nicky has project managed the installation and validation of molecular instrumentation including the Gene Xpert, ID NOW and COBAS Liat. for rapid detection of SARS-CoV-2 plus provided staff training.

In her role as Team Leader Microbiology, she carried the role of project lead for the implementation of the AusDiagnostics multiplexed tandem PCR and in-house RT-PCR to replace bacterial culture, antigen detection, and microscopy for faecal pathogens. This involved workflow planning, validation of methodology, cross-over studies, procedure writing, and training of staff.

Nicky has had significant experience working in the Pacific, two years as Rural Laboratory Supervisor in Papua New Guinea, and a year as Laboratory Trainer and Adviser in Palau. She has an excellent understanding of the challenges that laboratories in developing countries face with limited budgets, poor infrastructure, technical staff with knowledge gaps, and outdated or poorly planned systems and technology.

The Board of Trustees are delighted to have Nicky as an addition to their team.

## Welcome to the PPTCs consultancy staff



**Angela Lewis, BSc, GradDipSci.**

Angela the PPTC's newly appointed Microbiology Specialist and Programme Support Medical Laboratory Scientist commenced employment with the PPTC on the 26<sup>th</sup> April 2022.

Since February 2018, Angela has been employed as a Medical Laboratory Scientist in Microbiology at Canterbury

Health Laboratories. Prior to this, she was employed as a Medical Laboratory Technician in Serology/Virology. With the various roles she has had in laboratory diagnostics, Angela has gained extensive experience in a number of areas, including general Bacteriology, Mycobacteriology, Virology/Serology and through secondment into the Covid-19 response team. This has allowed her to build proficiency in a range of diagnostic techniques, including molecular analytical platforms such as 7500 RT-PCR, BD Max, Genexpert, Abbott M2000 and thermocyclers. She is also proficient in culture plate reading, antimicrobial susceptibility and automated and manual serological testing. The PPTC is delighted to have Angela join the Consultancy team.

## PPTC consultancy staff 2022



**Philip Wakem**

NZCS, DipMLS, MMLSc (Otago, NZ), MNZIMLS  
Chief Executive Officer and Haematology Specialist



**Navin Karan**

BMLSc (Otago,NZ) PGDipPH (Massey,NZ)  
MNZIMLS

- Microbiology/Molecular Diagnostics Specialist
- Programme Manager For COVID 19 and Infectious Disease
- Contract Management
- Centre based Courses
- Molecular Diagnostics
- COVID 19 EQA



**Filipo Faiga**

BSc, DipMLS, MNZIMLS

- Biochemistry Specialist
- Programme Manager
- For PPTC External Quality Assessment
- Health And Safety
- Biochemistry Contracts



**Russell Cole**

NZCS, DipMLS, MNZIMLS

- Microbiology Specialist
- Programme Manager for Laboratory Quality Management
- Diploma in Medical Laboratory Science
- Microbiology Contracts



**Angela Lewis**

BSc, GradDipSci, MNZIMLS

- Medical Laboratory Scientist
- Microbiology Specialist and Programme Support.
- Assistance in Molecular diagnostic platforms and Contacts

## New PPTC consultants who have joined the PPTC EQA programme



**Donna Mitchell, NZCS, DipMLS, DipMktg**

Donna has recently taken over the role of Serology Quality Assurance Consultant for the PPTC's Serology REQA Programme.

Donna has been employed as a senior scientist (part time) in Serology/Virology by Canterbury Health Laboratories since Oct 2011. Prior to this Donna was employed by Southern Community Laboratories for

15 years. During this time, she was supervisor of the SCL Molecular Laboratory (from 2004 - 2007) and contributed, as an author, to an in-house informative/marketing publication called "Bug Byte" which was distributed to GP's.

During the introduction of Chlamydia nucleic acid amplification testing in 2000 as a routine test in her Christchurch laboratory, Donna was also involved with the Marketing Department in a Strategic Planning Group for the new product launch.

While at the Princess Margaret Hospital for Canterbury Health Laboratories and later at SCL from 1991, Donna was involved in a variety of work including routine clinical work, research, and evaluation and implementation of Ligase Chain Reaction assays for Chlamydia and M. tuberculosis, and latterly the introduction of the ProbeTec Strand Displacement Assay for both Chlamydia and M. tuberculosis. As a result of the LCR work Donna was asked by Abbott Diagnostics Ltd to introduce the technology to laboratories in both Sydney and Melbourne. The PPTC is delighted to have Donna as a valued member of its consultancy team.



**Sharleen Price, BMLSc, MMLSc (Massey)**

Sharleen has recently taken over the role as the Microbiology Quality Assurance Consultant for the PPTC's Microbiology REQA Programme.

Sharleen is a Medical Laboratory Scientist with more than 10 years of medical laboratory experience in both hospital and community Microbiology and Molecular settings. Sharleen graduated in 2007 with a BMLSc and in the years to follow completed a Masters in Medical Laboratory Science in 2013. Originally Sharleen was solely involved in Microbiology but over the years has transitioned to mostly Molecular work. Sharleen has a busy family life but manages to work part time at WSCL in Molecular Haematology, and Infectious Molecular and still continues to be involved in general Microbiology

Sharleen is grateful to be working with the PPTC family and being able to contribute to the Pacific communities achieving positive health outcomes. The PPTC is delighted to have Sharleen as a valued member of its consultancy team.

## "Give a Little" fundraising towards the devastation in Tonga

As you would be aware, the powerful underwater volcano eruption in Tonga on 15<sup>th</sup> January 2022, caused widespread devastation to homes and services in Tonga, affecting 84% of the resident population.

The PPTC set up a "Give a Little" page requesting donations that would be paid directly to each of the medical laboratory staff members employed by the Tongan Ministry of Health in Tonga to support themselves and their families.

Navin Karan, (the PPTC's Programme Manager for Microbiology and Molecular Diagnostics) on behalf of the PPTC, spent many hours arranging and administering the "Give a Little Fundraising Programme" and is to be congratulated for his fine efforts in raising \$NZD 11,400.00 which was divided and distributed to each of 38 staff members. The laboratory community expressed their sincere gratitude to the PPTC and all those who generously donated.

## Appreciation letter received at the PPTC

From, All Medical Laboratory Staff, Tonga



To, PPTC Staff and Board Members, Laboratory Suppliers (Fort Richard ,EBOS ,Medica and Roche) and product Managers, NZ laboratory and Medical colleagues, NZIMLS members, New Zealand Medical Laboratory (APHG group-Wellington/Dunedin SCL and Labtest), Friends and Families,

We would like to take this opportunity to express our sincere and heartfelt appreciation for the generous monetary donations and support Tonga's Medical Laboratory staff had just received. We are blessed indeed! Thank you for walking alongside with us during this unprecedented time and the crisis of this natural disaster and COVID-19 . Thank you for showing care and support, enabling us to weather the burden of this crisis, knowing that we were not alone. Your donations had greatly helped with our family's essential needs. This will always be remembered and appreciated.

MALO 'AUPITO E 'OFA (THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR THE LOVE!), 'OKU HOUNGA MO'ONI (WE ARE SINCERELY GRATEFUL).

May God continue to bless you all in all the ways. Malo 'aupito once again! 'OFAATU

All Medical Laboratory Staff ,Tonga Islands (Nuku'alofa, Vava'u, Ha'apai and 'Eua)



Tongan Laboratory staff accepting the donations given.

## Overseas travel

**Cook Islands:** (30<sup>th</sup> May- 4<sup>th</sup> June)

Both Navin Karan and Angela Lewis are scheduled to visit the Rarotonga National Laboratory to carry out an assessment of Molecular Diagnostics, Laboratory Quality Management and the laboratory's progress towards accreditation alignment to the ISO15189: 2012 Standard

**The EQAsia project** (14-15<sup>th</sup> June 2022.)

The overall aim of the EQAsia project is to improve the Quality of Bacteriology Diagnostics for Antimicrobial susceptibility testing in the Asian region. The EQAsia project is supported by the Fleming Fund (UK Aid Programme). EQAsia comprehends a multidisciplinary consortium of experts gathered to deliver the outputs of the Fleming Regional Grant – DTU (Technical University of Denmark), IVI (International Vaccine Institute), NIH (National Institute of Health, Thailand) and CU (Faculty of Veterinary Science, Chulalongkorn University).

Navin who has been elected to the Scientific Advisory Board representing the PPTC has been invited to attend the EQAsia 2nd Interim Meeting to be held in Bangkok, from the 14-15th June 2022.

**Can you help?**

If any New Zealand medical laboratories have items of diagnostic instrumentation that have been recently upgraded or continue to be stored in the laboratory but are actually surplus to requirements, the PPTC would be most grateful if such items could be donated through its Centre to Pacific Island laboratories where there is an exceptional need. Pacific laboratories have very restricted budgets and often cannot afford to replace troublesome instrumentation that continues to breakdown, and which is often discontinued because it is so outdated.

The PPTC would also welcome teaching resources in terms of wall charts, Haematology case studies (stained blood films), projector slides, textbooks and journals (within 10 yrs. of publication) etc., for teaching purposes in the Pacific, if you no longer have a use for them. Any contribution is so valuable to us.

Please contact  
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